(c) the incentives extended to develop flower sector as a commercially viable sector to Karnataka fanners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) Government has sanctioned Rs. 3.57 crores for setting up of a flower auction centre at Bangalore to facilitate export of flowers to international destinations.

(c) Incentives extended in this regard include.—

> Financial assistance by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) to exporters for various activities such as prefeasibility studies, development of infrastructure, export promotion and market development, packaging development, promotion of quality and quality control, organisation building and HRD and research and development.

> Marketing facilitation centre at Netherlands for market feedback enabling better price realisation.

> Cold storage and cargo handling facility at Bangalore Airport.

MoU on trade between Singapore and India

3116. SHRI MURLIDEORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a MoU on trade has been signed between Singapore and India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a Joint Study Group has been set up to boost trade and investment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the benefits accrued to the country as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIVPRATAP RUDY): (a)to (e) In pursuance of abilateral agreement on 8 April, 2003 between the Prime Ministers of the two countries, an India-Singapore Joint Study Group was established to study the benefits of an India-Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA). The Joint Study Group submitted its report and a Declaration of Intent was signed by the Trade Ministers of both the countries during the visit of the Prime Minister

of Singapore to India on April 8, 2003. According to this Declaration of Intent, negotiations for the India- Singapore GECA should begin as soon as possible and aim to conclude with the signing of the relevant agreements as early as possible. The CECA, when negotiated and implemented, is expected to be of mutual benefit to both the countries in view of the extent of economic complementarities existing between the two countries.

Steps to increase Exports

3117. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite best and serious efforts, exports still constitute only a small percentage compared to other developed countries,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to increase India's share in the World market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIVPRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) India's export share in the World merchandise exports is growing continuously. In 1992-93 India's share of World merchandise exports was only 0.41%, as per WTO report. This increased to 0.67% in 2000 and 0.7% in 2001.

(c) A medium term Export Strategy which is co-terminus with the Tenth plan period (2002—07) was announced in January, 2002 with the objective of achieving 1% share in World exports. In line with this strategy, a number of programmes/schemes have been launched which include schemes like Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure (ASIDE), establishing Agri Export Zones, Market Access Initiative, strengthening "Focus LAC" programme, introducing "Focus Africa" programme, etc. In the Exim Policy 2003-04, besides, the focus on Service exports, policies have been devised to strengthen Special Economic Zones (SEZs), 100% Export Oriented Units (EOU's), etc. A new programme called "Focus CIS" has been introduced. Thus measures arc being taken from time to time to increase India's share in World exports.

WTO Ministerial Summit at Cancun

3118. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the next WTO Ministerial Summit is due to meet at Cancun and if so, when;